

Rumsfeld attacks German media bias

By Kate Connolly in Berlin

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Donald Rumsfeld, the US defence secretary, arrived in Germany last night for a Nato conference and within minutes condemned his hosts' media coverage of the war in Iraq as "even more biased than al-Jazeera".

Mr Rumsfeld did not explicitly name Germany but senior American officials said he was referring to the country, and his comments are certain to increase tension at the two-day Munich Security Conference of defence and foreign ministers, which starts today.

At the same meeting a year ago Mr Rumsfeld clashed over Iraq with the German foreign minister Joschka Fischer, who told him angrily that he was "not convinced" by the argument for war. That exchange came shortly after Mr Rumsfeld had prompted a fierce row by dividing Europe into "old" - referring to those countries that were against the war - and "new", those in favour.

Relations between Berlin and Washington plunged to a post-1945 low over the war, but Mr Rumsfeld said yesterday the situation between the United States and Europe had returned to being "fairly normal".

However, later, he said: "One western European country's television is noted for its bias. It is even more biased than al-Jazeera on coverage of Iraq."

[Schröder quits as leader](#)

- A meeting of Nato defence ministers in the run-up to the Security Conference agreed to provide more troops to Afghanistan.

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